

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 19. (canceled).

20. (new): A construction element (1) for the construction of a wall, said element comprising an upper face (2), a lower face (3), and lateral faces (4), said construction element comprising at least one groove or mortise (5), provided for the application by grading of a binder (17), necessary for the assembly of construction elements to one another, said mortise extending over the upper face (2) of the construction element, said construction element likewise comprising at least one protuberance or tenon (6), which extends over the lower face (3) of the construction element, the mortise (5) being arranged in such a way as to be in correspondence with the tenon (6) of the similar construction element so as to allow for the assembly of two similar construction elements, said mortise (5) being associated with a load-bearing wall (24) or partition (25) of the construction element and arranged at a distance from the outer lateral edge (8) of the construction element, which is sufficient to prevent the overflow of the binder (17) beyond the edge of the element during assembly, characterised in that the mortise (5) and the tenon (6) are dimensioned in such a way as to allow, during the assembly of two elements, for a partial embedding such as will allow for a strip of binder to be formed between the upper face (2) and the lower face (3) of the elements, the sole contact between the two superimposed elements

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therefore being by way of this strip so as to allow for an adjustment of the alignment, of the height, and of the plumb alignment of the elements which are to be assembled.

21. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that the tenon (6) and the mortise (5) have a cross-section which is approximately trapezoidal in shape, in such a way that, when two construction elements are in the assembled position, their lateral flanks extend approximately parallel to one another, and the small base of the trapezoid of the tenon being arranged opposite the small base of the trapezoid of the mortise when they are engaged, said lateral flanks being arranged in such a fashion as to leave a first space between them, intended to allow for the clearance of the said binder (17), the small bases being arranged in such a way as to leave a second space between them, filled by said binder.

22. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that the depth of the mortise (5) and the height of the tenon (6) are approximately equal and proportional to the tolerance which is to be accommodated with the construction element.

23. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 21, characterised in that the ratio of the weight of the construction element to the surface area of the small base of the trapezoid of the tenon is inversely proportional to the fluidity of said binder (17).

24. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that the width of the mortise (5) is less than the thickness of the load-bearing wall or partition (7) of the construction element on which the mortise is placed.

25. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that one mortise (5) straddles several walls and/or partitions (7) of the construction element (1).

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26. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that the height of the construction element is dimensioned in such a way that an assembly in height of the construction elements forms a standard height beneath interior lintels and stretches of masonry beneath ceilings, and in that the weight of the construction element is less than or equal to 25 kg, and the height of the element is greater than or equal to its length.

27. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that the height of the construction element is dimensioned in such a way that an assembly in height of the construction elements forms a standard height beneath lintels, and that the weight of the construction element is less than 25 kg.

28. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 24, characterised in that a mortise (5) is arranged above each of the load-bearing walls (24) or partitions (25) of said construction element.

29. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that the mortise (5) is designed in order to accommodate equally a simple or straddled fitting.

30. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that it comprises a vertical reference alignment shaping (9) for the assembling of opposed joints of said construction element with other similar construction elements.

31. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that it is provided with at least one horizontal false joint (10) in the form of a rounded half-shank on at least one lateral face.

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32. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that it is provided with at least one vertical false joint (11) in the form of a rounded half-shank on at least one lateral face.

33. (new): The construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that it comprises at least one mounting (12) provided in order to accommodate a hook for connecting the facing wall to the load-bearing wall.

34. (new): A combination of a construction element (1) according to Claim 20, and of a tool (13) intended for lifting the said element, characterised in that the tool is dimensioned so as to allow for the lifting, handling, laying and adjusting the alignment, height, and plumb alignment of the construction element (1).

35. (new): A wall constructed with construction element (1) according to Claim 20, characterised in that it is constructed with "thin joints" between the construction elements (1).

36. (new): The wall according to Claim 35, characterised in that it comprises assemblies of construction elements (14, 15), each construction assembly comprising at least two preassembled construction elements.

37. (new): An assembly of two walls constructed with construction elements (1) according to Claim 20, and forming between them an angle, characterised in that the connection between the two walls is provided by adhesive bonding and without embedding.